

HOW ARE WE TRACKING?

The world is rapidly moving towards a clean energy future and Indi is helping to lead this positive change.

Electricity generated from non-renewable, finite resources (e.g. coal) is being replaced by electricity generated from renewable sources. Renewable energy is produced using natural resources - solar energy, wind energy, and hydropower. Renewable energy sources allow households and businesses to generate electricity, use what they need, and sell the excess.

This energy revolution has been emerging for decades. Osbornes Flat resident Susan Reynolds installed her first solar hot water system 40 years ago and a solar PV system in the mid-2000's. She is one of Indi's early adopters of renewable energy.

We are now seeing large solar PV systems being installed at many major businesses across Indi, including Mars Petcare in Wodonga. Commercial solar farms greater than 1 MW are also at various stages of development. Commercial investment in the renewable energy sector makes good financial sense, and commercial-scale projects are helping to increase generation and supply of renewable energy in Indi.

Community energy projects are emerging across Indi.

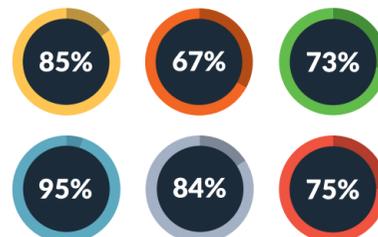
Renewable energy also provides local communities the opportunity to store the energy they are generating via their solar PV systems (using batteries), and to share this clean energy among neighbours.

Community energy (or community renewable energy) is a system of energy supply and distribution that is largely owned and managed by the local community. The goals of community energy are:

- Decarbonise the energy supply via renewable energy
- Decentralise and localise energy supply
- Democratise energy governance through community ownership
- Demonstrate that clean energy technologies work and that a clean, low carbon energy future is possible

Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) is a trailblazer for community energy. Initiatives like TRY are being driven by visionary and passionate community leaders who typically participate in a volunteer capacity. To achieve their vision they rely on strong support from their communities, all levels of Government, and industry.

Indi communities want a renewable energy future, they want to be part of it, and it can't come quickly enough.



85% of Indi voters support Australia transitioning to 100% renewable energy by 2030²

67% of Australians think that the nation is moving into renewable energy too slowly³

73% supported setting a new Renewable Energy Target (RET) for 2030³

95% of residents in the Ovens Murray region surveyed say that climate change exists and humans are contributing to it⁴

84% of residents in the Ovens Murray region surveyed are willing to take action on climate change⁴

75% of residents in the Ovens Murray region surveyed are interested in taking part in community energy projects⁴

2. Australia Institute, Indi electorate poll of 656 residents (2016)
3. Australia Institute, National poll (March 2017)
4. Victorians' Perceptions of Climate Change - Regional Report Ovens Murray, Sustainability Victoria (November 2017)

HOW CAN WE GET THERE TOGETHER FASTER?

'It's time to unleash the power of communities to address local energy needs and security'⁵

Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) is paving the way for community energy in Indi. Their 'blueprint' could be expanded across the electorate, where community energy projects connect with and support each other. But communities can't do it on their own in a largely volunteer capacity, and nor should they. Strategic support provided to communities can go along way. Modelling indicates that every dollar of government investment in community energy can leverage \$10-\$17 of community investment.⁶ The community, government and industry can help fast-track Indi's totally renewable future in the following ways:

1. Participate in community energy projects across Indi

- Indi residents can initiate community conversations, attend workshops, join a committee, and sign up to a program offering subsidised solar panels and batteries



2. Increase collaboration with other community energy projects

- Community energy projects can share information with and learn from other projects throughout Indi by participating in forums such as the Indi Energy Working Group

3. Increase lobbying of your local governments for stronger leadership on renewable energy

- Includes increased support for community energy projects

4. Introduce a National Energy Policy

- Bipartisan and nationally-coordinated to provide long term certainty at the policy level
- Agreed Renewable Energy Targets (RET)
- Recognise community energy for addressing energy supply, cost, and sustainability issues
- Recognise mini grid models (such as TRY) as a legitimate mechanism for energy supply



5. Improve and increase support to community energy projects and Community Energy Retailers

- Enable community energy projects to access the National Electricity Market (NEM)
- Support Community Energy Retailers to allow mini grids to access top-up power from other sources
- Improve Federal - State Government alignment and coordination of funding for community energy projects, to reduce the administrative burden on what are essentially volunteer run initiatives

6. Increase stimulus for renewable energy infrastructure developments

- Large solar PV farms and battery storage, pumped hydro (Indi pumped storage and Snowy Hydro 2.0), and transmission linkages to release renewable energy to South Australia and Victoria from Snowy 2.0

7. Increase investment in commercial renewable energy projects in Indi

- Large solar PV systems such as Burder Industries Wangaratta (325 kW), Kane Road Wodonga Solar (198 kW), and Bupa Wodonga (100 kW)⁷ are leading the way on carbon emission reductions, slashing industry electricity bills, and helping to fast track Indi's transition to renewable energy



8. Strengthen partnerships with community energy projects in Indi

- Industry financial support, innovation, and expertise are vital to the success of community energy projects in Indi. Mondo Power and North East Water are shining examples of industry partners helping TRY achieve its vision for Yackandandah
- Support the 'Indi Community Energy Hub' to create jobs and up-skill local residents, and build the capacity of Indi communities to reach a totally renewable future

5. Member for Indi Cathy McGowan MP introducing the Renewable Energy Legislation Amendment (Supporting Renewable Communities) Bill October 2017

6. Marsden Jacobs and Associates, Community Renewable Energy Fund (2013)

7. Australian PV Institute (APVI) Solar Map, funded by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, accessed from pv-map.apvi.org.au on 25 February 2018

Cover photos courtesy of The Border Mail and Totally Renewable Yackandandah

FIND OUT MORE about renewable energy in Indi by visiting www.cathymcgowan.com.au



TOWARDS A TOTALLY RENEWABLE INDI

A case study in community action (March 2018)



Communities of Indi creating a future of

100% Renewable Energy

ENERGY THAT IS:

- ✓ Affordable
- ✓ Reliable and secure
- ✓ Good for the local economy
- ✓ Great for our environment

WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE FOR INDI

Over 30% of Indi households have already installed solar PV systems, double the Victorian average.¹ And that's just part of the story...

TOTALLY RENEWABLE YACKANDANDAH (TRY)

Since 2014, TRY has been a trailblazer for community energy in Indi. Their vision is for Yackandandah to be 100% powered by renewable energy by 2022.

TRY is achieving its vision by establishing Australia's first commercially operating community mini grid, which will empower the community to generate, store and share solar energy. Their progress has been awe-inspiring. 40% of properties in Yackandandah have already installed solar PV systems, reflecting strong community support.

Key partners include:

- **Mondo Power** (Ausnet Services Ltd subsidiary) supply solar panels and batteries to homes, and provide Ubi's to enable electricity sharing between participating households.
- **Indigo Shire Council** helped TRY to establish and auspices staff via Victorian State Government funding.
- **North East Water** is working with TRY to trial the use of renewable energy to power the town's water treatment plant.

TRY provides no interest loans via the 'TRY Perpetual Energy Fund'. Yackandandah Health received support from TRY in 2016 to install a 99kW solar PV system.

MP Cathy McGowan is helping TRY to generate national awareness and recognition in Federal Parliament.

TRY's next phase is to facilitate an electricity trading or sharing system that will allow households connected to the mini grid to share and trade electricity. Crucial to this stage is the development of a **Community Energy Retailer**.

Murrindindi Climate Network Inc

Produced a 'Green Business Guide' addressing energy efficiency, hosts workshops and promotes positive action on climate change, such as community energy.

WHOLE OF INDI

Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance (GBGA)

Established in 2007, GBGA promotes and supports regional action on climate change. Members include 11 regional Councils, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and two Catchment Management Authorities (Goulburn Broken, North East).

North East Regional Sustainability Alliance (NERSA)

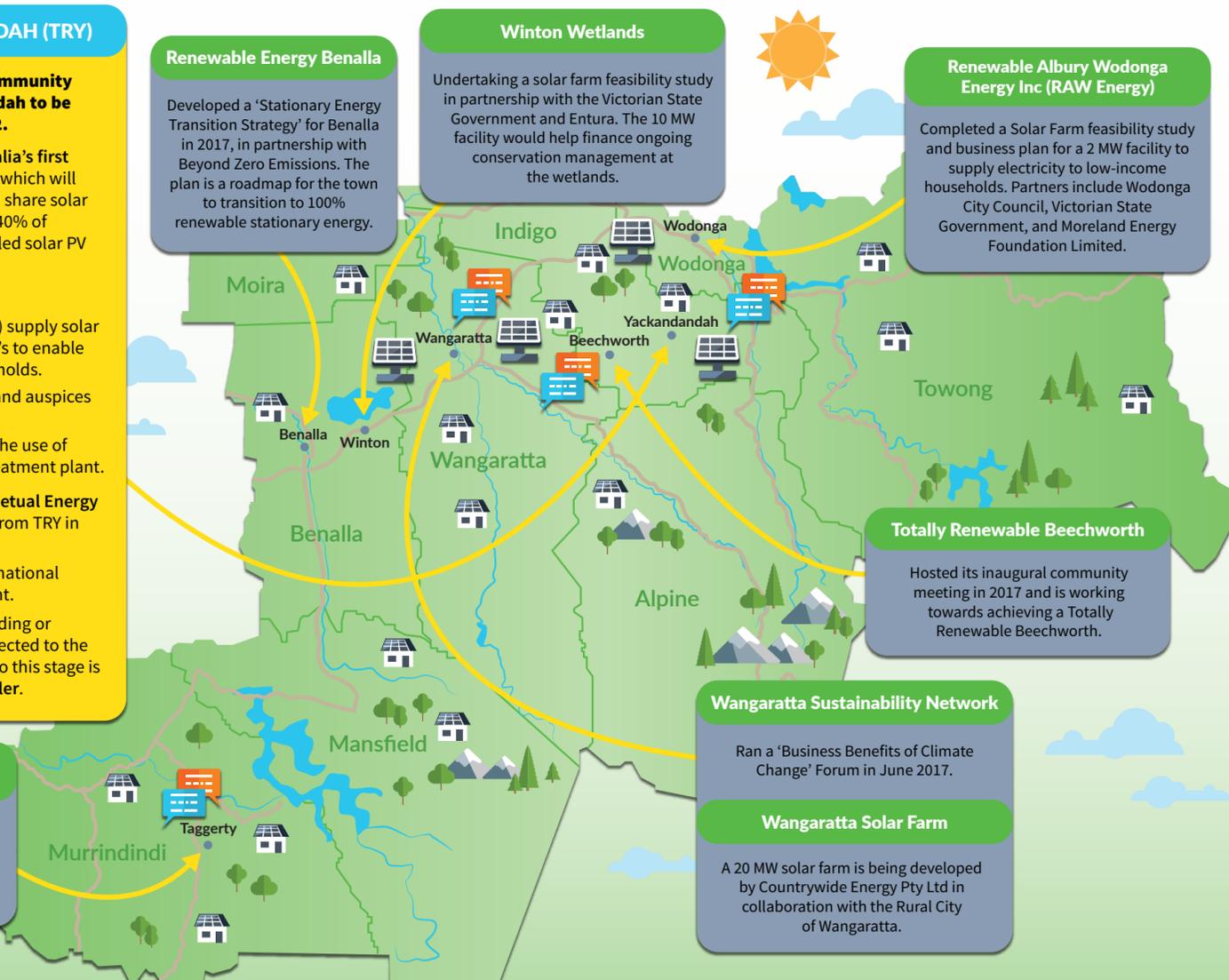
NERSA is a network of community groups promoting sustainability across North East Victoria.

Indi Energy Working Group

Convened by MP Cathy McGowan in 2016, this forum provides local advice and progresses the Indi renewable energy agenda. The working group consists of representatives from Indi Councils, community renewable energy projects, and industry stakeholders.

Wodonga Albury Towards Climate Health (WATCH)

Established in 2007, WATCH is a non-partisan community group that actively advocates for action on human induced climate change.

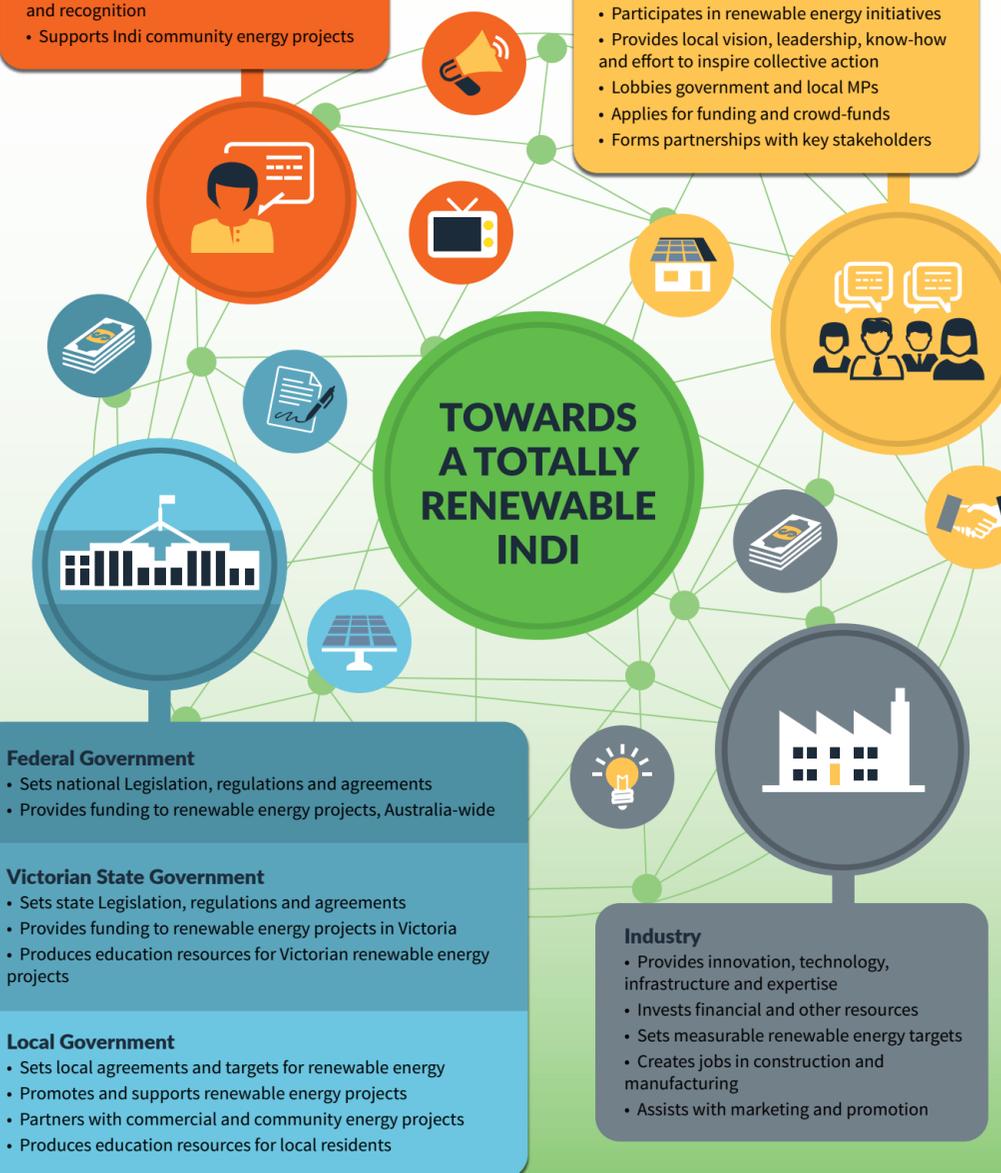


MP Cathy McGowan

- Advocates for renewable energy in federal parliament
- Connects the Indi electorate and national energy policy
- Generates national and regional publicity and recognition
- Supports Indi community energy projects

Community

- Participates in renewable energy initiatives
- Provides local vision, leadership, know-how and effort to inspire collective action
- Lobbies government and local MPs
- Applies for funding and crowd-funds
- Forms partnerships with key stakeholders



KEY ACTIONS

Year	Action
2018	Solar farm permit granted - FRV Services Australia has been granted a permit by Benalla City Council to build an 85MW solar farm at Winton (Feb)
	Working Group - meeting with Australian Renewable Energy Agency to progress funding opportunities for the region (Jan)
	Funding Announcement - Victorian State Government's \$10 million microgrid grants program (Dec)
2017	Funding Success - Winton Wetlands secured Victorian State Government funding for a solar farm feasibility study and business case
	Funding Success - Indigo Shire Council secured Victorian State Government funding for a community energy retailer business case (June)
	Speech in Federal Parliament - Raised community energy projects as a Matter of Public Importance, highlighting TRY and others (June)
2016	Question in Federal Parliament - Urged the government to consider community energy projects to help address escalating manufacturing electricity costs (June)
	Industry Community Partnership - TRY and Mondo Power launched a proposal to build Australia's first commercially operating community mini grid (Feb)
	Funding Announcement - Victorian State Government's New Energy Jobs Fund (Rd 1)
2015	Funding Success - Wodonga City Council and RAW Energy secured Victorian State Government funding for a solar farm feasibility study and business case
	Working Group convened - First meeting of the 'Indi Energy Working Group' held in Wodonga
	Renewable Energy Benalla established (Oct)
2014	Forum - Benalla Sustainable Futures Group hosted a renewable energy forum
	Forum - Murrindindi Climate Network Inc hosted an Indi Candidate Forum for the Federal Election (June)
	Speech in Federal Parliament - Acknowledged and pledged support to TRY (Feb)
2013	Petition Tabled in Federal Parliament - Petition for action on climate change containing signatures of 571 Indi residents (Nov)
	Speech in Federal Parliament - Advocated for rural and regional Australia as holding the key to renewable energy (Sept)
	Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) established (March)
2012	Forum - Indigo Shire Council hosted a community energy forum in Yackandandah (March)
	Speech in Federal Parliament - Advocated for environmental sustainability (March)
	2011/12 - Solar North East Project - Victorian State Government - 348 rooftop PV solar systems installed with funding from Sustainability Victoria
2011	2011 - National Solar Schools Program (NSSP) - Federal Government - Indi schools received grants for solar PV, rainwater tanks, and energy efficient appliances
	2007 - Murrindindi Climate Action Group formed
	2007 - Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance (GBGA) established

1. Australian PV Institute (APVI) Solar Map, funded by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, accessed from pv-map.apvi.org.au on 25 February 2018